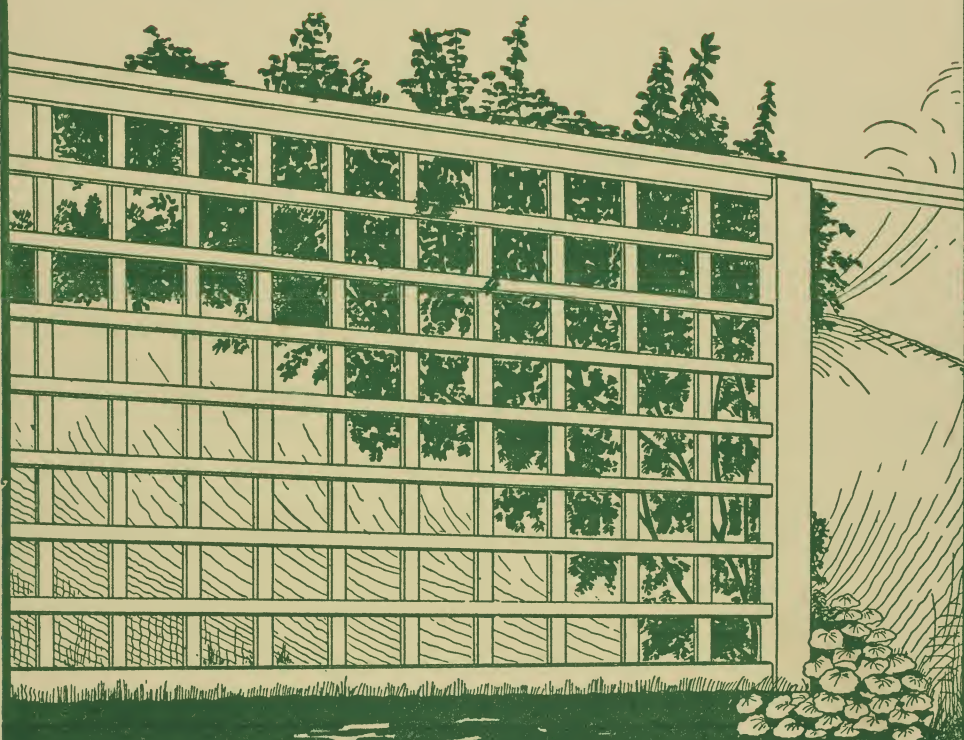


# California Garden



## Christmas Number



IMPORTANCE OF PLANTING IN  
RESIDENCE ARCHITECTURE  
DATE PALMS  
NIGHT BLOOMING CEREUS  
A GARDEN OF HERBS

DEC. 1925

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# The California Garden

*Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association  
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No. 6

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANTING

*In Residence Architecture.*

It may be conservatively stated that residence architecture, especially in Southern California, is less than fifty per cent in the design of the building—that the real charm and attractiveness is obtained rather by proper selection, arrangement and care of the landscaping. The Southern California style has been developed primarily to provide simple and suitable background for planting. More consideration should be given the base planting around the home and the treatment of its garden areas than the ornamental beautification of the building itself.

If this fact could be impressed upon the prospective home builders of San Diego it would greatly discourage the present tendency towards architectural freaks and monstrosities. The salutary effect on the general aspect of our fair city would be as surprising as it would be praiseworthy. It would indeed characterize San Diego as a community of real homes, and if generally and consistently followed, it would be noted as the garden home city of America.

This is a splendidly worthwhile work that should enlist the active interest and cooperation of every organization and individual desirous of promoting the welfare of our city. We can well be inspired to activity by the achievements of San Barbara and other Southern California communities where truly wonderful results have been obtained by well directed and persistent organized efforts.

Now let us consider briefly the true aspect of a home. It goes without saying that a home should be homey. It must express in its exterior design and treatment cheer, quite charm and hospitality. A real home is never formal, ornate nor pretentious. It is the abiding place of the affections—not affectations. It must be livable and lovable.

The humble little cottage homes of old England are famed the world over for their quaintness, charm and ingenuous beauty. The exterior of these buildings are even crude in their frank honesty and unassuming

simplicity. They evidence no frantic struggles for variety and novelty,—on futile efforts for artistic effect. Their alluring charm and homey atmosphere is due not to architectural features and stunts, but almost entirely to the delightful treatment of their door gardens and general landscaping, all treated so friendly and harmoniously in relation with the buildings.

Adequate and proper planting is more essential to complete the architectural treatment of the exterior than fitting window draperies are requisite to furnishing the interior.

A successful and friendly home will appear as an outgrowth of its surrounding planting rather than a conspicuous obtrusion on its site. To accomplish this effect, the house should be kept low and be as rambling in character as space and requirements will permit. It would seem self evident that the exterior should be treated in soft warm tones harmonizing with the greenery, yet how frequently do we see outrageous examples of bad taste in stuccoed walls of loud pink, yelling yellow, gawdy greens and cheerless greys, colors not only excruciating to look at en masse but impossible to combine with any scheme of landscaping. Why people with any color sense will finish a house in vivid clashing colors is beyond my comprehension. More discretion is required in choosing exterior tones that are friendly with the planting than in selecting interior shades that harmonize with the furnishings.

Good home atmosphere cannot be obtained if a house appears crowded on its site, neither is it livable if the rooms do not receive an abundance of light and air. The standard fifty by one hundred lot is inadequate for any but a small cottage.

An enclosed garden, joining the house and opening from the main rooms, is perhaps the most delightful feature of Southern California homes. If protected from the prevailing winds and open to the sun, it encourages outdoor living and makes for health and hap-

## **F. A. BODE**

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piness. Such a garden is well worth the space allotted to it, and the time and attention required for its upkeep. Whenever possible, such a garden should be planned with the house.

With the wealth of hardy trees, shrubs, vines and flowering plants available in Southern California, there is no reasonable excuse for slighting the planting around the home. Small plants are very inexpensive and grow so rapidly in this warm sunny climate that good effects can be obtained by the end of the first growing season. They flourish with little care and attention, require only occasional watering and pruning but once a year.

There is nothing that can produce the attractiveness nor bring discordant elements into pleasing unity as mass planting around buildings and harmonious landscaping along thoroughfares.

San Diego enjoys many natural advantages possessed by no other locality but it is sadly in need of more planting and better landscaping. The city is growing rapidly and it is vital to its welfare that organized efforts should be made at once to direct its development along lines of harmony and beauty.

Written by Richard S. Requa.

December 12, 1925.

### **RICHARDIA ELLIOTTIANA**

The habit of growth and cultural requirements of this *Richardia* are so different that many who have given it, or any other yellow forms, the treatment so successful with the common kind, have to a great extent failed. The behaviour and requirements of *Richardia Elliottiana* may be thus summed up. It is a little more warmth than *R. aethiopica*, which occurs wild in the southern portion of Cape Colony. Next, it passes the winter in a dormant state, during which time it must be kept quite dry in a minimum temperature of 45 degs. Then, about the first half of February, the tubers must be shaken clear of the old soil and repotted in a mixture of loam, leaf-mould, decayed manure, and sand, after which they should be placed in the warmest part of the greenhouse or in an intermediate temperature, giving just enough water to keep the soil slightly moist. With this treatment roots will quickly make their appearance, the pretty spotted leaves develop, and in May or the early part of June the flowers open. At first the flowers are a good deal tinged with green, then become of a beautiful golden hue, after which, instead of shrivelling, the spathes gradually become green again, and retain their freshness for some time. After the flowers are past the plants must be watered as before till the leaves commence to turn yellow, when the supply should be gradually diminished, and by the end of the summer or early autumn they will be quite dormant, and must then be kept dry throughout the winter. In potting, it should be borne in mind that the roots are produced like those of a *Caladium*, not from the base of the tuber, but from the upper part, just around the crown, from whence the future growth proceeds. This being the case the upper portion of the tuber should, in potting, be buried 1 inch below the surface of the soil. When the leaves and spathes are developing, aphides or green-fly are apt to attack them, and soon cause permanent injury unless checked.—Gardening Illustrated.

### **GROUND COVER FOR SHADE**

That charming and curious little plant, *Helxine Soleirolii*, which is quite common for borders in lath houses, has established itself as a lawn in a shady plum grove in the garden of Mrs. Rew, Coronado. The shady space is about 30x50 and the *Helxine* has become well established in place of a poor lawn. It is close to the ground and is cut by the lawn mower the same as grass. It stands only a little sun, but its greenness and flatness make it a perfect ground cover, far superior to grass, and it is not ruined by some walking upon it. Many shade places would do well to try it.

K. O. S.

## DATE PALMS

K. O. Sessions.

*Phoenix reclinata* is deserving of more general culture, but its slower growth has kept it far in the background compared with the *P. canariensis*. This is the common fast growing date of the garden that at the end of ten or twenty years is so often cut down because of its size and heavy shade. The variety *reclinata* makes its tall and slender growth slowly, but when 12 to 15 feet high it has many charms and is never destroyed. The young plant sends out many branches which should be kept cut off if one trunk and a slender plant is desired, and such pruning hastens its height. The foliage is a light green, leaves are only 6 to 8 feet long and trunk 8 inches to 10 inches in diameter. There are several fine specimens on upper Fourth street, at 3668 and 3768. A row on the parking space at Tenth and Adella, on Coronado, also at the Benard Nursery, in Mission Valley, is a fine pair.

It is this palm that Mr. Richard Requa recommended as a desirable variety for the Spanish type of architecture, in his recent lecture at the La Jolla Woman's Club. Another date palm in contrast to this tall and graceful variety is the *Phoenix Robelini*, a dwarf date. In maturity having a spread of only 6 feet and a trunk 4 or 5 inches in diameter, and when 12 years old about 6 feet tall. This palm can be safely planted in the small garden and will always be a success. It makes a good plant for a rounding corner, or as a pair near steps, or flanking an entrance. Its foliage is a dark green, leaves less than a foot wide and about 3 feet long. A splendid pair is at 1209 Hunter street, west of Jackdaw, at the northeast corner of Fourth and Thorn, on Lark street and Montecito—a double row to the garage, and at 1406 Plumbosa, stands a good pair. This palm is rather sensitive to cold, so that San Diego may plant it as well as the *Kentia Fosteriana* and *Belmoreana*, with great safety.

*Phoenix dactylifera*, the fruiting date of commerce, is the tall palm at Old Town or North San Diego near the bridge. Also the palms at the Old Mission. It is the least attractive, of slower growth and has no beauty nor grace as a young plant. It is this variety that is so common in Southern France and Italy.

*Phoenix Rupicola* is a very beautiful small growing date palm, that throws out branches about the base. It is a rare sort, and San Diego has a few fine specimens—two at the northeast corner of Ash and Seventh streets, one at the northwest corner of Cedar and

Eighth, and one on Fourth street above A, that has no branches and its tall, thin, crooked trunk and small bunch of leaves at the top has very little merit, a mistaken method of culture.

*Phoenix Reclinata*—allowed to grow its branches—makes a huge plant. Observe the one at Public Library garden, northeast corner Ninth and E; at the southwest corner of Fifth and Walnut and the very superior specimen at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Campbell, of Point Loma, opposite their front door. That plant was the first *P. Reclinata* in San Diego and has a reputation among the older gardeners of Los Angeles. The plant was moved from Laurel and Sixth to Point Loma about 1914. Another specimen is on the lawn at the Court House.

All palms are best moved in the spring, when the warmer weather is approaching.

## AN EVERBLOOMING SHRUB

The *Solanum Rantonnetti* is in most attractive form about the city. It lends itself to a flat training—being a sort of semi-vine—and looks particularly well falling over a wall or growing upon a sloping bank. Its dark blue flowers, with yellow central eye are increased by some dryness and frequent trimming. The color is in perfect harmony with yellow, orange, and white combinations. There is never any dead flowers or shabby seed pods on the plant, and very few plants have that quality that are everbloomers.

Observe the specimens at northwest corner Lewis and Ingalls, on the pergola by garage. The row on the east end of Barcelona Apartments, Fourth and Juniper, and at La Jolla, several plants are conspicuous.

Its training as a standard is a great success and it is sure to become a popular form.

K. O. S.

Mr. Chas. F. Eaton, of Montecito, Santa Barbara, was a recent visitor for a few days, to enjoy the Park and observe the horticultural developments of the city. Keenly interested in shade-loving plants, Mr. A. D. Robinson's begonias and decorative plants, were of especial interest. Santa Barbara is planning a fine reception for the convention of the "Garden Clubs of America" next April. What will San Diego have ready for them to see at that time?

K. O. S.



## HERBACEOUS BORDERS

The best style for hardy plants is the picturesque style reached often unintentionally in many old-fashioned gardens. The doors of the house wreathed with Honeysuckle or climbing roses, the windows peeping through Clematis or Jasmine, the beds edged with rustic stones covered with dwarf plants, bowers of climbers in the most odd and picturesque places, and the flowers in great clumps in irregular beds and borders, each sort being allowed sufficient space to develop itself properly and show its capabilities.

The mixed border, in which the plants are placed in rows, and each kept to a small, neat specimen, the tall-growing ones having their flower-stems tied to neat stakes, rigidly upright, is amongst the worst arrangements possible for hardy flowers; but not so the mixed border, in which spreading plants are allowed to form great patches 1 yard to 2 yards across. Take a mixed lot of Primroses and plant them in a row, and the effect is poor compared with that of the same plants arranged in one irregular clump; the same with Auriculas, Polyanthus, Daffodils, and most other dwarf-growing things. All hardy plants will be found to have the best effect planted in some informal manner, as if in a state of nature. This does not mean that the plants are to be planted in any higgledy-piggledy fashion, that is the very reverse of Nature's arrangements. Plants, when they seed themselves, come up all round the parent plants, forming clumps and masses, but occasional seeds get blown away, or carried by birds, so that approach to a colony of any particular plant is generally signalled by the appearance of stragglers or outliers away from the principal masses. Something of that kind would be the best arrangement for that large class of gardens which are too large for one pair of hands, but are not too large when the owner has a permanent man to do the rough work, but attends to all the niceties himself. Let one thing be a feature in each part of the garden at one season, and all the rest subordinate. In the autumn, for instance, one part of the garden might be conspicuous for its Phloxes, another for its Roses, another for its Dahlias, another for its Gladioli, another for its Japanese Anemones, and so on, always choosing for the conspicuous plants those which remain in bloom for a considerable time, and keeping those subordinate whose blooming period is short. One advantage of the picturesque style of gardening is the great use that can be made of climbing and twining plants. Honeysuckles, Everlasting Peas, Clematis, Passion-flowers, and annual climbers can all be placed almost anywhere, running up poles, over trees and fences, trailing over sunny banks, or trained

on rustic arches over the walks.—From *Garden Illustrated*, London.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR DAHLIA LOVERS

By Ralph F. Cushman.

At this season of the year the keeping of dahlia roots is the important feature. If your dahlias have not already been dug it is important that you dig them at once. Remove all earth from them if necessary, wash them. Be sure that all rotten portions, if there be any are removed by cutting off. Dust the cut portions with flour of sulphur. If the grandfather tuber and a couple of small ones remain, keep the entire clump until dividing time as the old tuber will keep the small ones from deteriorating during storage. If a good clump has been made during the growing season and the old tuber that was planted remains, detach the old tuber from the clump before storing. You may then, after the clump is thoroughly dried, label and wrap it up completely in newspaper and store the entire harvest of clumps in a paper lined box. Place the box in a cool, dry place. These should keep nicely until the middle of March. It may be necessary, however, to take them out occasionally and remove any rotten portions, treating the same as before. If it is convenient, saw dust or shavings may be used in place of the newspaper and I believe this method will keep the clumps in better condition.

Nematode, root knot or eel-worm is one of the greatest enemies of the dahlia. This is most easily discernible to the naked eye in the form of little lumps or knots on the tuber or smaller roots. If any evidences are noted, the entire clump should be burned. There is no known cure for nematode-infected roots. The location from which the infected dahlia clumps were taken should be planted to nothing but fibrous rooted plants for the next 3 or 4 years, unless the location has been thoroughly sterilized. The spread of nematode is greatly facilitated by the exchange of tubers by amateurs, because these tubers are not regularly inspected, and though the donor may be innocent of giving away infected roots, the damage is done nevertheless.

A large area of the soil of the United States is already affected with this pest and anything that can be done to eliminate it or prevent its spread should have the assistance of all interested in gardening. Its chief method of distribution is in the soil, though it is readily transported through roots or portions of roots wherein it is feeding, such as seed potatoes, potato peelings, bulbous plants or green plants transplanted with the earth on them. If you find that a section of your garden is already infected it would be best to call your horticultural advisor.

## The Dec. and Jan. Gardens

### THE FLOWER GARDEN

By Miss Mary A. Matthews.

The winter season brings a rest period for our gardens, usually, and they need this rest just as much as we humans do. A rest is beneficial for all and there are many things we can do to give this rest in the garden.

Clean up where plants have been growing stalks, dead flower heads and plants past blooming are unsightly and also apt to bring various plant diseases. Pull them all up and burn them, then you can return the ashes to the garden.

Some persons like to mulch their ground at this time. I have seen wonderful gardens that never had manure dug into them, the whole garden is mulched every season at this time with manure, the nourishment from the manure leaches into the soil and keeps it rich. By spring, if the rains are good, it is about all washed in, leaving the soil loose and friable—easily worked. Since there is no cessation of growth during the winter period with us, the general instruction for cleaning up must be taken with moderation. However, the rank growth made during the warm season will need a good pruning and many vines and shrubs will need cutting back. Continue to set out seedlings already started—sweet peas for early bloom, also hardy perennials and the biennials, such as Canterbury Bells and Foxgloves. Deciduous trees and shrubs can be transplanted or set out now, so that new root growth may begin before spring.

Care must be taken not to set out trees and shrubs that are not yet dormant; it will be better to wait till January.

Flower seeds of nearly all kinds may be sown in boxes or seed beds or the open ground and transplanted when large enough. Pansies, Daisies, Snapdragons, Phlox (annual), Pinks, Candytuft, Calendula, Stocks, and many others can be prepared in this way for the borders in the spring. Poppies, Larkspur and Evening Primroses and other hardy, deep-rooted plants which dislike to be moved, may be sown just where they are to bloom. Three good things for spring not so often seen in gardens, and easily grown, are Nemesis, Brachycome or Swan River Daisy, in blue and white, and Nigella (love in a mist), Var. Miss Jekyll, in corn flower blue.

*Continued on Page 12*

### THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

The rains have come so nicely this winter that we have been able to get on with very little irrigation so far, but do not neglect to keep the surface well cultivated to admit air and sun. This is particularly important in the heavy cold clay soils.

In addition to the list of hardy vegetables that can be planted now, set out Asparagus roots and Rhubarb. The Mary Washington Asparagus is the newest and best variety of Asparagus, being blight resistant with stalks large and well flavored. Panama Rhubarb is a large, deep rooting variety, which you can cut practically all the time if you keep it fertilized and watered. It is now time to begin spraying your peach trees to prevent curly leaf next year. Lime and Sulphur Solution used in the proportion of one to eleven parts of water is the best spray to use. Spray now or early in January and again just as the buds are beginning to swell. It is also well to use this spray on blackberry vines during the spring to destroy blackberry mite, which causes the red berry condition and prevents ripening of the fruit. This should be done when the leaf buds are opening, strength of spray being one gallon to twenty-five gallons of water, or one to twenty-five. The winter season is particularly favorable for going after the Argentine Ant, because at this season there is less honeydew produced by the various scales and plant lice which they protect, so they are more likely to feed on the poison syrup set out for their destruction. Many people do not realize that it is necessary to get rid of the Argentine Ant if they would be rid of aphid and various scales that prey on our garden plants and trees.

Ant Rol system is a convenient and thorough going method of using a syrup made up from a Government formula for the destruction of these pests, and now is the most favorable time to use it.

December and January are the two best pruning months, so do not neglect your fruit trees and berries.

Continue to set out Anemone and Ranunculus bulbs and plants for a succession of blooms, also bulbs and those beautiful lilies, Rubrum, Auratum and Tigrinum. Some of

*Continued on Page 12*

# The California Garden

Editor  
Alfred D. Robinson

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## EDITORIAL

Just as many lands look forward to a white Christmas, we of California hope for a green one, and the reason is probably based in the same old human desire for something different. They have been green all summer long and we have been yellow and brown and tawny. Oh, of course we have had the green of alfalfa, of orchard trees, and our oases of grass, but the hills, and the valleys and the mesas, even the swamps, have been clothed in every combination of yellow, brown and grey. Our trees and shrubs, the oaks and rhus the multivariuous chapparal have been green, grey green, sage green, etc., etc., but not the luscious, cool, almost liquid green of the grass, the grass of our hills in the tail of the year when the rains have been plentiful.

This year the rains have come, so that even the most unobservant and careless of voyagers outof-doors says, How green everything is.

The green grasss, what a company it is, a thousand different forms all blending in that soul-satisfying green, growing side by side, almost of a size, forming a smooth mantle for the earth. And then splitting off into companies of tall and medium and short, and if the moisture grow scare, the stronger chokes out the weaker, and the battle of life is on.

But we are concerned now only with the Greenness of the Grass, this Christmas. Perhaps it were unwise to spoil its perfection with excursions into the future counting the

beeves it may fatten, the hay it make and the honey. Why not take this wonderful greenness as Nature's dressing for our Christmas joy. This is being written on Point Loma, always an enchanting land, but never more so than now in its greenness, a greenness surpassing that of many previous years, and yet of the thousands that traverse it week by week only the few see the greenness of it, for it is in the grip of development. It is being levelled and squared and plotted and the world says, Its time has come at last. And that is funny. This wondrous headland that looks upon the Ocean as it starts for the Orient, and the Bay and the everlasting hills, and has looked upon them for these tens of thousands of years. That watched the waters carve out the Bay of San Diego and fill up Mission Bay, that never missed the smallest change as Coronado and its sandspit became what it is from what it was, several times over perhaps. That this rugged pile of the ages should come into its own forsooth because realtors scarify its surface, it is surely to laugh even if not so loud, because man has not learned to live by green grass alone.

Not the least of Nature's gifts to man in Southern California, is her preparation for his appreciation of her green grass at Christmas. Only a short time ago California had a very small population, so that of the millions now within her borders, the vast majority come from elsewhere, and of these an hundred per cent have expressed disgust with its brown summers, the first year may be the second, and the ultraconservatives for even a third. It is only a hangover, they are in California bodily, but a bit of their minds lingers where they come from, and seen at that distance the grass grows greener, the flowers brighter, etc., etc. Then comes the new greenness of California Christmas and they welcome it as a visitation from back East, not as its own wonderful unique self. But a time will come, at least we hope it may, when California gets into the blood, when all these immigrants think California, live her, and then they will know what a splendid thing it is to have a tawny summer and fall that Christmas may be so satisfyingly green.

We have yet left a little bit of the natural, just enough to let us sit on a chunk of hardpan and enjoy the Christmas greenness. There is a wonderful canyon near us that we often pass, because that is the way to the grocery store. Its floor is neither even nor rugged, it just sways a bit, makes one think of a swing, and it used to have isolated clumps of scrub oak, but these were all grubbed, and the way of it is pleasing, sinuous without being snaky, and the two sides are gentle slopes succeeded by rugged cliffs, and right down in the bottom in the middle, just

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.



far enough away to give the proper foreground is a pool, that the rains made, and out of the edge of that pool rise three eucalyptus, here and there and there, just as they were placed in the Story of the three trees, and a cow and a calf pose around. The background is Mission Bay and the Hills beyond and the sky and heaven above. When the green grass came it filled in the picture completed it and then came the surveyors and they have drawn a straight line of stakes right through that pool and the mules and scrapers are up on the Hill and day by day they creep lower and lower, making deep scars towards the water and all that wondrous landscape is becoming a checkerboard and the green is being buried.

We keep a cow and we feed her well, but all summer long, while she munched alfalfa and gulped bran we promised her Green grass for Christmas and there she stands, ankle deep in it and her coat has taken on a deeper sheen and her cream is no longer in need of a lipstick, and though she wears a halter and chain she is placidly content and the chewing of her cud is a pean of satisfaction. And the chickens act the same way, they were waiting for the green grass and when it came we had eggs for breakfast in the morning. We try to feel like they do, but don't want other humans to see us acting it out. But we would like to roll in the grass and perhaps chew it a bit for we have never considered the punishment of Nebuchadnezzar to eat grass like the ox as one-half as bad as the often self inflicted task to eat and drink like a hog.

#### M. HENRY CORREVEON MAY COME TO SAN DIEGO

In view of the recent addition to the Floral Library of two books by M. Correvon and the account by Miss Sessions of her visit to his home in Switzerland, the following extract from Florists Exchange should prove most interesting especially, as Mrs Herbert S. Evans of this city informs that he is an old time friend of hers and will visit with her here.

#### ALPINE PLANT SPECIALIST TO VISIT U. S. A.

Word has reached us that Henry Correvon the famous Alpine and hardy plant specialist of Floraire, Switzerland, is coming here in February to give a series of 50 lectures under the aegis of the Garden Club of America. Mr. Correvon's lectures will be illustrated with a collection of colored slides, depicting views in his nursery and of various parts of the Alps.

Mr. Correvon, by the way, is a recognized authority on Alpine plants and while he is well known in England, we believe this is the first time he has ventured across the Atlantic. He is quite a good linguist and we believe

his lectures will be greatly appreciated. While organized by the Garden Club of America for the benefit of its members, we believe that florists and nurserymen interested in Alpine plants will be welcomed. Certainly no such opportunity of hearing so great an authority on Alpine plants and rock gardens has before been offered in America.

Mr. Correvon has written several books on the subject of Alpine plants but all of them are in French, only one so far as we are aware, having been translated into English. This fine work, *The Alpine Flora* translated by E. W. Clayforth, contains no less than 180 color illustrations.

Full details as to Mr. Correvon's tour will be furnished by the Garden Club of America, 598 Madison ave., New York City.

#### NEXT MEETING

On Tuesday, January 19, 1926, at the regular meeting of the Floral Association at the Floral Home in Balboa Park, a reception will be held for our returned travelers. Among them are Mr. and Mrs. Straus, Gen. and Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Herbert Evans, Miss Halliday and last, but by no means least, or dear Miss Sessions. As each of the above named has kindly consented to tell us something of his experiences in foreign lands, it goes without saying that the meeting will be one of most unusual interest. If you have not visited abroad the evening talks will have the charm of novelty. If you have they will have the charm of renewal.

On February 16, 1926, the third Tuesday, the regular February meeting of the Association will be held as usual at the Floral Home. Our Miss Sessions will talk on the Robinson Gardens in England.

#### IRIS CULTIVATION

To divide or not to divide, that is the Iris question. Last month California Garden advocated leaving Iris alone till they were crowded and the advice came straight from an Iris bed but here is what a correspondent from Redlands writes, and up there lives a real Iris authority, S. S. Berry, who has occasionally contributed to this magazine: "Iris clumps need dividing whenever they get too big, be it one year or six. I have clumps that get so crowded that they are liable to rot in a year's time; others of the same variety differently placed, go longer. Bearded Iris are very hardy, but rot is the worst enemy they have. Anything like grass or mulch that may tend to keep the rhizomes moist is a danger to the clump."

The writer wrote this is not meant for publication, but how is the information otherwise to be disseminated or the correction made.

### THE NIGHT BLOOMING CEREUS TANGLE

There is more or less misunderstanding as to what kind of Cactus the Night Blooming Cereus really is. The name is sometimes given to species of the *Phyllocactus*, as well as to the true *Cereus*. In point of fact, many of the plants formerly listed under the name of *Cereus* have been changed to species of *Selenicereus* in the latest edition of Bailey's *Cyclopaedia of Horticulture*, although the old name is followed in all the English publications.

The plant most commonly grown is *Cereus grandiflorus*, or as Bailey calls it, *Selenicereus grandiflorus*. There are a hundred or more species in the genus, and only a few are night blooming forms. By far the greater portion bloom by daylight, and have brightly colored flowers. In former years *C. triangularis* was the night blooming form most commonly seen in cultivation, but appears only in old collections now.

The different species of *Cereus* range all the way from the slender Rat-tail to specimens growing 30 feet high. There are many forms of growth among them, too, but none which ever flatten out like a leaf. All are angular and often many sided.

When grown in the house the different forms which are amenable to cultivation need some support, like a trellis, as they are very ungainly when left to themselves. Roots are thrown out from the stems, and help to hold the plants fast to whatever support they may rest upon.

The Night Blooming *Cereus* in its several forms is invariably an ugly plant, but is sometimes prized for that very reason. And when the flowers come they atone for the lack of grace in the plant. These flowers repay careful examination, the different parts being very beautifully modeled, and it is interesting to find the stamens carried through the entire length of the long tube. A strong plant of *C. grandiflorus* will produce many flowers each season, usually in the autumn. But these flowers do not remain long expanded, opening at seven or eight o'clock in the evening, and fading at sunlight except on dull days, when they may remain open until 10 o'clock. The same flowers never open a second time, but their growth may be retarded for a whole day by removing the bud before it is fully open and placing it in water. The flowers have a pleasant vanilla-like odor, but not so powerful as that of the flowers borne by night blooming types of the *Phyllocactus*, which are very highly perfumed.

*Phyllocactus grandis* is an entirely different plant, but the species is sometimes mistaken for the true Night Blooming *Cereus* because of its nocturnal habits. This flower is also large and pure white, borne on a long slender stem. The *Phyllocactus* plant is easily dis-

tinguished from the *Cereus* plant because the stems flatten out like attenuated oak leaves. As in the case of most *Cereus* species, the greater number of *Phyllocactus* forms are day flowering and are brightly colored. In the wild state the plants are found clinging to trees much like Orchids, for which reason they need a trellis upon which to rest.

These different forms of Cacti are very easy to grow, as their thick skins seem almost impervious to abuse. Any ordinary living room temperature suits them, and they thrive better than most plants under excessively dry conditions. Any good garden loam makes a satisfactory potting soil, if a moderate amount of sand is added, but it is very necessary to have thoroughly good drainage.—Horticulture.

A little tobacco dust will not hurt your cinerarias at this time. They seem to be attacked this year by some invisible insect and tobacco dust or nicotine sulphate will prove effective.

## NOTICE

After Jan. 1st our gardens and entire stock of 600,000 Gladiolus, 50,000 Dahlias, bulbous plants, etc., will be moved to our new location at 702 E. 24th St., National City, Calif., where we will be pleased to have you visit us. Please address all communications to Ralph F. Cushman, Glad-Dahlia Gardens, R. 1, Box 166, National City, Calif. Telephone Nat. 235

**Ralph F. Cushman**

GLAD—DAHLIA GARDENS

# ROSES

## TWO NEW ROSES FOR 1926

The following is the announcement of the Secretary of the American Rose Society relative to the release of two of Dr. W. Van Fleet's hybrid roses.

### Special Notice to Rose Growers

"The way in which the Rose, Mary Wallace, has sprung into prominence calls to mind the fact that it was introduced by the American Rose Society in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture in Washington. Heart of Gold is now in the hands of nurserymen and will be more widely distributed this coming Spring.

"The American Rose Society, in pursuance of its established policy of cooperation with the Department of Agriculture in the distribution of notable Roses hybridized by Dr. W. Van Fleet, now announces the distribution for 1926 of these two Roses:

Sarah Van Fleet  
Dr. E. M. Mills

of which the official descriptions are given herewith.

"Complete information and blank contracts for the purchase of same may be had upon application to the secretary, American Rose Society, West Grove, Pa."

Rose, Sarah Van Fleet.

### OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION.

Class: Hybrid Rugosa.

Parentage: (Reported as Rugosa x My Maryland).

#### Description:

Habit of plant—Erect and spreading.

Character of foliage—Rugosa type; medium green.

Freedom of growth and hardiness—Vigorous; very hardy.

Flower—3-4 rows of petals; opens flat; shows stamens.

Color—Wild Rose Pink.

Form—Cupped.

Fragrance and bud—Fragrance, moderate; bud, medium size.

Petalage 20 to 30.

Freedom of bloom and lasting quality—Excellent.

The Rose is distinct from all the rugosa hybrids in color and continuity of flowering.

Rose, Dr. E. M. Mills

### OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION

An early blooming, spreading shrub Rose, 3 ft. to 4 ft. high, similar to the graceful Scotch Roses in its habit and its manner of spreading by underground root shoots.

Foliage: Small, deep green; the new growth is almost thornless, with sharp, straight thorns on the mature wood.

Flowers: Medium size, 2 in. to 2½ in. across, semi-double, peculiarly globular in shape and profusely produced along and around the arching branches. They are primrose color with a pink suffusion which becomes more pronounced in the later blooms. The effect is of wands of bloom somewhat like Hugonis, and is very attractive.

Parentage: The parentage of this Rose is in doubt, although Dr. Van Fleet regarded it as a cross between Hugonis and Altaica. The foliage hints of rugosa ancestry, and the group of Roses which was sent out for trial with this one included a hybrid between Hugonis and Radiance.

The plant of Dr. E. M. Mills is vigorous and graceful in habit throughout the season, and the Rose is valuable either as a lawn specimen or for use among shrubs.

### Climbing "Sports"—What They Are

They need special treatment—how to succeed with them.

Many amateurs have, I believe, only a hazy idea as to what a climbing "Sport" really is. I will try to explain it. For reasons that no one can scientifically account for, some Roses behave in a freakish way, occasionally sending up a shoot bearing a Rose of a different shade of colour from those usually produced on a plant of that particular variety. This is called a colour sport, and by budding on from eyes in the axils of the leaves on that particular shoot endeavour is made, usually successfully, to perpetuate that change of colour, and so establish a new variety to which another name is given. Thus from Ophelia we have Mme. Butterfly and Westfield Star, and Mme. Edouard Herriot has been even more prolific, and given us, amongst others, Golden Glow, May Marriot, Cambrai, etc.

Again, a plant for no apparent reason sends up a long, flowerless shoot occasionally several feet long, and often emanating from otherwise weak growers. This is propagated in the same way, and thus we have so-called Climbing Sports of many dwarf varieties. Their number increases yearly, and soon it would appear that nearly every dwarf variety will have its climbing prototype. Some become fixed and prove a great success; others revert to dwarf habit. Some become free bloomers; others are content to send out long flowerless shoots, and give only a few blooms.

### Do not Prune Hard after Planting

It must be borne in mind that they originate from an abnormal wood growth, and the problem is to make them profuse bloomers. To use the knife too freely tends only to make them develop more wood, and occasion-



ally to revert to dwarf habit. Thus it is advisable to abstain from hard pruning after planting, which is almost the only exception to the general rule. Allow the tree to spend its energies in wood growth, and it will then usually settle down to the production of blooms. Consequently, give them plenty of space, and tie in the growths as horizontally as possible.

#### Some of the Best Climbing Sports

are those of: Mrs. W. J. Grant, Ophelia, Sunburst, Lady Hillingdon, Mme. Melanie, Souper, Papa Gontier, Irish Fireflame, Richmond, Mme. Edouard Herriot, Mrs. H. Stevens, Paul Lede, Lady Ashtown and Mme. Abel Chatenay.

B. W. Price.

—Popular Gardening.

### HOW THEY PLANT ROSES IN ENGLAND.

Here is what Popular Gardening of England says about planting roses. On arrival of rose trees unpack in a sheltered place and well sprinkle roots and tops with water. If the weather is very wet or unfit for planting, open a trench lay the roots in and cover with earth and straw to await a suitable day. If planting on a hot or windy day, dip the roots in a puddle of loam and water before planting. If the roots are very dry soak them in water for an hour or so before planting. A bed to themselves and a rich loamy soil that feels greasy when pressed in the hand is sure to suit Roses but most soils will grow them if suitable varieties are chosen. Dig the hole large enough to easily take the spread out roots. Break up the bottom spit and mix with manure. Cut back straggling, bruised or broken shoots or roots before planting. Spread out the roots well and cover them with fine soil and not in contact with the manure. Don't plant too deeply, three to six inches at most will be quite deep enough, and always see that the soil is trodden firmly round the roots. Plant dwarf roses with the junction of the budding with the stock about one inch below the surface. Stake standards at the time of planting and do not omit to plant firmly.

After your flowers have bloomed and you wish to save the seed thereof, allow them to thoroughly mature. Pick them in bunches and hang them upside down in a shady garage or shed to thoroughly dry. Seed like the dahlia or zinnia after thoroughly drying should be rubbed so as to separate the seed from the chaff. Then place on a canvas in a windy spot where the wind will carry off the chaff allowing the heavier seed to remain.

Store your bulbs in a dry, cool place. Good storage trays may be made of a lath frame covered with chicken wire. Make a storage frame and slide in your trays like drawers.

### SAWDUST—A CORRECTION

Last number of the California Garden printed an extract from the Southern Florist condemning the use of sawdust with no faint damns and claiming to recite an experience of Mr. Edward H. Rust of Pasadena in support of the argument. A reader sent this to Mr. Rust and here is what he replied: "I cannot understand the article you enclosed as I have not been interviewed and do not know who should have given this information which is exactly the opposite of my experience.

"I have known only good results from shavings being incorporated with the soil. It never has caused the soil to pack and always leaves it loose. Shavings that we have used for two years for heeling in trees is half rotten; fruit trees and vines will make quite a growth with no soil being added to it. I covered five acres four inches deep, in my nursery and two years later cultivated it in with good results. It is not a rich mulch but does lighten the heavy soil."

There can be no doubt that with shavings certain plant building elements that the tree took from the soil are being returned, the only question is whether in our land of little moisture there is adequate compensation for the water necessary to cause rotting, and also whether there may not be danger of too acid condition.

### PLATYCODON GRANDIFLORUM

Is a truly beautiful and remarkable plant with immense, inflated, balloon-shaped flower-buds, which open into huge, rather open bell flowers of powder-blue or white, or white with bluish veins. When well established in good loamy soil the plant reaches 2 feet in height and forms bushes fully 18 inches across, from which it may be surmised that the flowering period is a prolonged one. It often masquerades in gardens under the names of Campanula or Wahlenbergia, and there seems some doubt to which genus it rightly belongs. There is a pretty dwarf form of it known as variety *Mariesi*, which is valuable in the rock garden, where it flowers from July to August. The plant is thoroughly hardy and has been cultivated in our gardens for a great number of years, and is fairly well known, yet rarely met with. It should be given a position where digging is not likely to injure the exceedingly brittle, fleshy roots. Established clumps in the herbaceous border should be marked before their shoots die down in winter to protect them from the spade during the annual turning over considered essential by most gardeners.—Gardening.

# THE LATH HOUSE

By Alfred D. Robinson.

The nights are cooling perceptibly and the leaves from the tall begonias are falling fast. Cease housekeeping the lath house, and put every leaf off the path on the beds. It would no doubt be very helpful if the whole lath house could have a mulch of two or three inches of leaves; the rains would rot them and further they would protect the roots of the plants if an extra cold snap come. What kind of leaves, I hear some say. Any kind that tend to rot easily, preferably the ripened ones and small. The Chinese weeping elm and also a common elm from Georgia, that is mine came from there, make a perfect leaf cover that lies close and through which moisture can penetrate. Eucalyptus and similar leaves are of little value for the purpose and grass clippings are not the thing. The wistaria in my lath house is now bare, but it gives annually bushels of splendid leaves. We of Southern California are dead set on planting evergreens, but we will have to come to some deciduous for leaf mould. Here is what Ernest Braunton wrote in Western Florist: "These old-country ginks used leaf mold as religiously as they did smoking tobacco. Nearby canyons were full of beautiful fluffy black stuff, the joy of every fern grower. Well, Germain's had it by the truck load and it had to go into every potting soil and every tray of soil, whether for calceolarias, cabrobs or cabbages. In these days good leaf mold is so valuable that it is put to very restricted uses and some growers use none, buying or compositing a substitute." That is where our natural leaf mold is, at the safe deposit door with the farm fertilizer. To be safe a good sized lath house should have a small deciduous forest and a dairy.

The main thing to watch in the lath house now is the watering. I know I said this last month and shall probably repeat next, for if you are vigilant here you may pass up every other activity and get away with it. Rains seldom supply the equivalent of one good watering to potted or boxed plants and hanging baskets, nor in an overgrown lath house do they reach equally all the ground surface. It is possible for the plant's situate as above to suffer for water three days after an inch of rain, if those days have been bright. Nearly all lath houses are watered with the hose, a convenient but not ideal method. Just hold your hand for a minute under the hose these mornings and feel the chill. If that water is splashed on a plant after the sun has warmed it up the shock is very great, some shock is inevitable because this hose water is

colder than the atmosphere, but in the early morning the air and the plants are nearest to the water temperature. It would seem that any fool would know that, but so many see the dry plant and the hose and they unite them and say with a dismissing nod, and that's that. I want to tell you about that glass house that was in the shaping when I last wrote. It is up ready to be filled and my head is too big to go in the wide entrance. The wall between the lath house and the glassed section is a most satisfactory hardpan one with arched openings. I built it with the splendid aid of my generalutility man and I see no reason why any one should not build likewise. We just piled up the hardpan against boards and packed in cement as we went along. Of course it was not as simple as all that, for the chunks of hardpan are mighty uneven and they don't stack any old way, but in my younger days I loaded many tons of hay, so many that I ache to think of them now, and the principle of loading hay and building a hardpan wall are the same, keep your outside high. This I did, and saw to it that a good cement wall arrived on the other side.

Right away I struck a snag. Going to the lumber yard for the form for the arch, which I described as a bent board with a sill, I was confronted with a price that would have paid for a truck load of lumber, so I got some half by six redwood with a good, straight grain, built a form on the shop porch, soaked the boards and prayed, the board had to bend on a half circle with a six foot diameter and about half of them did so, the other half protested with a bang and disintegrated, but I got the five arches for less than the other chap asked me for one. Then I found a second hand door with a busted lock, but a big pane of glass and the lock proved mendable with a little labor and it is hung.

You know of that chap Balbus who built a wall in the Latin exercise book of long ago. I remember when I suffered in trying to make him build his wall in Latin. I thought, Why make such a fuss about the job, lots of people are building walls all the time, but now I am initiated, Balbus was not building A wall but THE wall, and that is what I have done. As it grew, my enthusiasm outran my endurance, I placed hardpan and splashed cement till I dropped, and in the middle had to lay off for two days, but even those days I crawled to the wall and did obeisance to the thing it was to be. It is so seldom that a creation fills up its dream, but that wall has

done more, of itself a thing most fitting it must prove the forerunner of many walls that shall tie the glass and the lath together. In time it may bear a bronze plate, say something like this, Anno Domini Robertus aedificat 1925 and then a list of all the walls that are to follow. I don't feel in the least like apologizing for taking up so much space on my wall, it is nothing to the space it has occupied in my mind for a month, I built it by hand by day, and with my mind at night, when I could not sleep from utter fatigue, and when I did sleep I twice dreamed I fell up against it and pushed it over, and so realistic was the catastrophe that the first thing in the morning I rushed out to inspect it and tentatively try its stability. I know I had a million other things I should do, but I pant to start more walls, I want to get a monopoly on all the hardpan in the county and build a wall all over Rosecroft, not just around it, and then follow it about Sunday mornings.

#### HOW TO DESTROY MEALY BUG

(M. M. D.).—The mealy-bug is probably the worst of all the insect pests with which the plant grower has to contend, and nothing short of radical measures will ensue its destruction. It often happens that lack of perseverance or want of time enables the insect to multiply to such an extent that it is found extremely difficult to keep it in check. If, however, the work of extermination is commenced and carried on in good earnest, there is no reason why the house should not in a short time be thoroughly freed from this troublesome pest. The present time is favorable for the necessary operations. In the first place, every plant must be carefully gone over and thoroughly cleansed of all living insects; then every crevice in the brickwork should be carefully stopped, and the whole of its surface washed with fresh-slacked lime. At the same time wash all the woodwork with soap and water, in fact, thoroughly clean every portion of the structure. If the interior woodwork can be painted so much the better. All that has now been done will be useless unless the whole of the stock can be gone over again, exercising the utmost vigilance that not an insect escapes; in fact, every plant should be examined three times in the course of a fortnight. Plants not of a valuable nature, and which are badly infested, should be thrown away, replacing them with healthy young specimens. If climbers exist in the structure cut them back. The work of cleaning will be much simplified thereby, and they will speedily refill the space with healthy wood.—Gardening Illustrated.

## PLANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

If you have a sunny corner, protected from the wind, we can plant a tropical garden that will attract attention. Nearly everything will attain full growth the first season. We have on hand a good selection of "Out of the Ordinary" tropical plants, and a barren corner can be transformed into a Tropical jungle in a few months. Let us call and talk it over.

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#### FLOWER GARDEN

*Continued from page 5*

If you have any bulbs that by chance were belated do not fail to get them into the ground now. Anemones and Ranunculus will stand being kept out of the ground till quite late in the season. Put in a planting of Gladiolus

Berry boxes are useful around the garden. Nest your empty boxes and store them until wanted. Stuck into the ground by one corner they make an excellent shade for plants just set out. They make excellent storage boxes for the smaller bulbs.

#### THE GARDEN

*(From Page 5)*

our most successful sweet pea growers advocate planting the Early Blooming Spencers until the end of January and the summer variety after that, so you still have time to plant whichever kind your fancy dictates.

Before you dig your dahlia bulbs tag them so as to know which is which. After digging run a fine wire through the bulb and attach your tags. Nothing is more aggravating than to have a lot of bulbs and not know the kind of flower they will produce.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.



## THE OLD BOY'S GARDEN

(By the Early Bird)

We are hearing so much about the gardens of all sorts of folks, last month it was that of the Old Lady, that the scale would seem to have been exhausted, but what of the Garden of the old Boy? Old Boys do have gardens, and now I am thinking of one in San Francisco dating back fifty years or more, which was so guiltless of the worst modern crimes that I am moved to write about it, not with any pretence of drawing its plan or giving its planting list but just a meandering sort of effort to present a trace of its atmosphere.

It was up in the Western part where streets and lots stood almost on end, in fact the street here was almost too steep to walk in a dignified manner, there was only one inhabitant could do it and that was a young athletic lady who lived at the top of the block on the other side and she wore sensible shoes and swung from the hip. Our side walk was of planks, and one morning after a rain I was going down town, and as I passed the garden gate, this lady started up the opposite side, for a moment I took my attention off my feet sliding down the greasy way as I watched her get into her stride, it was an error in judgment and I flew up into the air and sat down hard and wetly, I jumped up too quickly to see if my neighbor had noticed my fall and immediately did another flop and then repeated once more by which time I did not care if I had been observed or not and frankly squatted and slithered the rest of the way to the corner. This is nothing to do with the garden but it had to do with the atmosphere.

Like the vast majority of the homes, the house was built right over on one side of the lot, the higher of course, and a tall clipped cypress hedge was on the lower. This gave a long narrow strip entirely unrelieved by any planting except a native palm, a branching affair that, shed leaves sparsely but persistently and harbored during the summer a green parrot whose chief accomplishment was to laugh hysterically, it had been raised in a family of women given to hysterics. Of course there was a path surrounding the long narrow house and a flower bed on each side, practically all the rest was lawn.

Now the dear old boy who owned this garden liked flowers, in a sort of spasmodic way, he knew nothing about them, never wielded spade or trowel but he would have one thing and that was a row of sweet peas in front of the cypress hedge up which they climbed, and where they appeared supremely happy, having to be picked with a step ladder before the season was over. He picked these sweet

peas oblivious of everything but the flower, what were stems or foliage in his young life, he got a fistful hard by the head representing every color and took them down town to show to other dear old boys who made him admire their dahlias or roses or what not. Occasionally he brought home some potted plant that had taken his fancy but he never planted it, all that he left to the community gardener, a pirate named Wren, a good name for a garden but conveying a false notion of this one's character. Wren was an autocrat, for over twenty years he had gardened that neighborhood, he did not hold with any of these new fangled ideas but once in a while he got a moderately modern plant, which he sort of farmed out. It would appear in this garden and be duly charged in his bill, then just as the owner got a sort of pride in it and wanted to exhibit it, it was not there, Wren had moved it on to another patron and collected again. There was one gorgeous thing even Wren could not move and that was a big cactus, a snaky thing that curled like an octopus against the house and bore hundreds of brilliant red flowers that were fairly molten in their depths. After a while the original Wren grew old but there were young Wrens trained by him that also could make a fairly good plant yield a steady income. They came whenever they had a day to spend that way, they cut the grass, they trimmed all round the roses and everything else and usually left it shipshape without a bloom to spoil the effect. There came a day when the Old Boy acquired a son-in-law with generations of gardening ancestors and he fought those Wrens backed by the love of the established order of his father-in-law and finally got a garden, that yielded all kinds of fisty bouquets most of the year but he had not the heart to attempt to alter the design. For fifty years the old Boy walked up and down that cypress fence culling sweet peas, sometimes a dog, often a cat, walked with him and once he imported a pair of Pekin ducks to eat the snails. There is no doubt the ducks ate snails, but they also ate everything, else and their removal by the dogs was hardly to be deplored. At the time of the tragedy an Irish setter, very appropriately called the Red Devil, and a most demure Cocker Spaniel formed the kennel, and they evidently were students of the Mikados theory of humorous executions. The morning the second duck quacked its last, the two dogs were discovered running the unfortunate bird up and down the path, each a hold of the tip of the wing and pulling apart so that the duck appeared to fly. Of

course the Red Devil thought it up and the Spaniel was doing it so as not to be thought a flat tire. There came a time when the Wrens left that garden and then the grass cutting was up to the son who also bicycled and he fixed the cycle lamp on the lawn mower and ran it at night. This to the immense edification of a Chinese cook who came and stood bareheaded as long as the performance lasted, evidently regarding it as a religious rite or a penance or something of the kind.

What else did that garden have in planting? Oh of course you are not an old San Franciscan or you would know. An old stump covered with English ivy beloved of the snails, a hawthorn that never bloomed, an Escalonia, a laurel a syringa, a Reve D'or rose, a lemon verbena, a variegated Pittosporum, a Woodwardia fern under the bay window and a few violets, and yes there were English Daisies and Dandelions in the lawn. But there was more atmosphere in that Old Boys Garden than in half the modern ones built for the street outlook.

#### CULTURE OF SPANISH IRISES

Kindly tell me something about the culture of Iris tingitana and filifolia Imperator.

B. G.—Ia.

A common mistake with the forcing of these irises is to place the bulbs in soil as soon as they are received. Treated thus, they will make a vigorous start and profuse growth, but few will bloom.

When received, the bulbs should be laid thinly in flats and given a baking for a month on a shelf in the greenhouse, where they will get the full sun. When they are then potted they will start quickly and flower much better than had they been otherwise treated.

Do not give them a high temperature; 50 degrees at night is enough. They should have plenty of water.

They may be grown in pots or boxes, and will certainly bring you good profits if you can only induce them to bloom. But this they will not do unless given a good baking before hand.—Florists Review.

#### LASTING EFFECT OF MANURE

The question is often asked: "How long will the effects of manure last?" At the Rothamstead Experiment Station in England a plot of barley received 14 tons of manure per acre for 20 years and was then cropped without manure for 20 years. After manuring stopped the plot yielded an avrage of 30 bushels per acre for 20 years. A nearby unmanured plot during the same years averaged but 13 bushels per year. This well shows the lasting value of farm yard manures, for 20 years is a long trial without adding plant food.—Ernest Branton in Western Florist.

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## A GARDEN OF HERBS

In the gardens of long ago, there was always a corner of bed devoted to the culture of herbs.

The six suggested here are well worth growing: Spearmint, which should be available to every housewife, is not included because sprigs for use or roots for planting easily can be secured from a friend or neighbor.

**Dill:** One of the best of the comparatively newer herbs. It grows from two to two and a half feet high. Culture same as for Carrots. The seeds, gathered when ripe, are used as a flavoring for condiments and pickles, and sometimes for medicine. Although an annual, the plant will reproduce itself by volunteer seedlings from seed ripened and fallen.

**Lavender:** An aromatic shrubby plant not used in food but one of the most worthwhile herbs for the garden. When growing, it is beautiful and its flowers, when dried, are delightful for scenting household linen. It delights in a fine, rich, rather limy soil but requires somewhat more shade than the other herbs. Needs protection in cold districts in Winter. Can be increased by dividing the old roots.

**Sweet Marjoram:** A perennial but generally grown as an annual. The seeds are very small and should merely be pressed into the soil. The leaves and other green parts are used in Summer and dried in Winter for seasoning. A few plants will add to the interest of any garden.

**Sage:** One of the most extensively used plants for seasoning. Sometimes used as a tonic in domestic medicine. Grows from one to one and a half feet high. In very cold districts the plants need protection in Winter. Everyone is familiar with this old-timer.

**Summer Savory:** Even the smallest garden plots should provide room for home-grown Summer Savory, if no other herbs. Grows eight to twelve inches high. The seed is very small. The leaves and young shoots may be used for flavoring in Summer or the leaves, small stems and the flowers dried for seasoning in Winter. Some European folks put up (or down) a few sprigs of this herb with garden Beans in a brine. These flavored Beans are then cooked as wanted with fresh meats and Potatoes.

**Thyme:** A shrubby plant about 10 inches high, the small aromatic leaves of which are used for flavoring. Will stand transplanting. Generally hardy but may need protection in extremely cold districts. The broad-leaved English variety is best.

Many of the herbs may be planted as edgings or borders or may be grown beside the

paths and walks. A bed, a border or a corner given over entirely to herbs gives greater satisfaction; they are thus more easily cared for, more easily gathered and do not interfere with the other crops. They are generally easily grown in rich, mellow, well-worked soil. Sow the seeds in Spring in shallow drills about one foot apart, and when the plants are up three or four inches thin out and transplant. Cultivate until midsummer and then mulch around the plants with straw to prevent sanding of the foliage by fall rains. In the north and east it is safest to protect all the perennial kinds in Winter.

Those that are grown for their leaves should be gathered in the morning of a fine day as soon as the dew is off and dried quickly. If stored before they are perfectly dry, the leaves are likely to mold. The proper stage of growth for harvesting is just before the plants reach full bloom. Herbs should be cut before being frozen, although freezing may not injure them.

Any one interested in growing herbs on a commercial scale for medicinal or other purposes should write to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or his, or her, state department of agriculture or experiment station for advice respecting the possibilities in the district concerned and for bulletins and other sources of information on the subject.—A. B. Cutting, (In The Farmer's Wife.)

### WOOD ASHES AND THEIR USES

During the past year I have had ample means of testing the value of wood ashes, both as a means of warding off the attacks of slugs and other garden pests from tender vegetables and as a means of enriching the soil and consequently accelerating growth. I believe that the old remedy—fresh-slacked lime—if used in excess, is injurious to some crops, and after it has lain on the damp soil a short time it loses its burying character, and then slugs pass over it with impunity. I have therefore been compelled to use ashes of every kind, but more especially those from wood fires; and now I convert every kind of garden rubbish into ashes.

At this season of the year, when the thinning of shrubberies is generally receiving attention, every kind of trimmings may be converted into valuable ashes, as when once a good bonfire is kindled, and a glowing red heat obtained—no matter how green the wood and leaves may be—the fire will burn away as fiercely as the driest straw stack if kept constantly fed with fresh material until the whole is consumed. There is no more certain way of getting rid of noxious weeds,



such as Couch Grass, Bindweed, Docks, etc., that that of passing them through the fire, as it destroys all seeds that generally abound in rubbish heaps that are rotted away by the slow process of fermentation.

To get the full benefit of all their good qualities the ashes should be kept quite dry, by removing them as soon as they are cold to a shed, there to remain under cover until required for use. Ashes are invaluable mixed with soot and lime for dusting over any kind of seedlings or freshly-planted garden crops, especially of the Brassica tribe; while Turnip crops are especially benefited by such a mixture; in fact, the only limit to the many uses to which ashes may be put is the power of procuring them in sufficient quantities.

I find them to be the best and safest of manures for mixing with new Vine borders, also with the potting soil for many exotic plants. If many of the so-called artificial manures were composed exclusively of pure wood ashes purchasers would have less cause to complain than they frequently now have; for, in the open quarters devoted to vegetable culture, the spots on which rubbish heaps have been burned are always indicated by the luxuriance of succeeding crops. I would strongly advise all growers of vegetables to have a good supply of ashes in readiness for the next seed time, and to apply them liberally to all crops directly they are planted or coming through the soil, as nothing looks worse in a kitchen garden than irregularities amongst crops, and if not required for that purpose they will well repay the labor by promoting a healthy and luxuriant growth. They enrich poor soils and render heavy and retentive ones friable, and they may be applied without fear of injury to the most delicate of crops. Under glass I find they are extremely useful for dusting Cauliflower and Lettuce plants, and for mixing with the soil for forced Potatoes and such early vegetables as are usually forwarded before their ordinary season out-of-doors.—Gardening Illustrated.

## DECEMBER FLOWERING TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES

Perhaps the most conspicuous subject in our parks and gardens these December days is *Acacia podalyriaefolia* with its silvery white foliage and immense sprays of soft, yellow flowers, which are delicate and dainty. It seems to be a short-lived variety but should be planted freely. It attains a height of about 25 feet.

*Ceanothus arboreus*, the fast growing native lilac, with its sprays or terminal clusters of light blue flowers, thrives best in loose soil and is not harmed by drought or frost. It is a fine subject for hillside planting.

Abutilons are conspicuous at present with their yellow and calmon-orange colors and brighten up the shrubbery borders during the winter months. They seem to be subject to black scale. *Duranta Plumieri*, which Mr. Morley described last month in his list of berried shrubs, might well be included also among the shrubs which flower in December. They are drought resistant, but sometimes suffer in frost, though they quickly recover. I suppose the yellow fruit is responsible for the common name "Golden Dew-drop". *Dombeya Natalensis* grows to a height of 12 feet, the foliage somewhat resembles that of the poplar; flowers are pure white, about the size of cherry blossom, and sweet scented. *Erica Melanthera* is perhaps the best of all the heaths, being exceptionally hardy, standing sun, drought and frost except when the plants are very young. It has been extensively planted in Pasadena and makes a fine showing among shrubbery or massed in beds. It remains in flower for several months and is fine for cutting.

*Buddleia*. At least two species of this family flower here during the winter. *Buddleias* are best when cut back immediately after the flowering period, and again towards the end of July. In this way they do not attain a great height and are less likely to become uprooted in wind or after rains. *Malvaviscus*, known as *Achania Malvaviscus*, has scarlet flowers which resemble an abutilon and never open widely. The plant attains a height of about 5 feet. The flowers remain in good condition a long time.

*Cestrum aurantiacum* has orange yellow flowers borne on the young wood and is a most useful bright flowering shrub, reaching a height of about 4 feet. Good specimens of the two above mentioned shrubs are growing on the old Singer place recently gifted to Pasadena for a public park. *Bignonia cherere* is probably the best all round vine. It would be impossible to find it entirely without flowers after it has reached a fair size. The scarlet trumpet flowers are very large and the dark, vigorous foliage makes it invaluable for covering walls or pergolas.

*Bignonia Venusta* is the showiest winter blooming vine. The golden orange flowers hanging in pendulous clusters at every leaf joint. It grows very rapidly, and is seen to best advantage when allowed to hang from eaves and gables. Frost in January occasionally shortens the flowering period, but the vine quickly recovers.

*Bougainvillea Laleritia*, with its brick red flowers, is at present in flower in sheltered corners, though it does not reach the height of its flowering season until February or March.

WILLIAM DAVIDSON.

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